What to Listen For

Weather **Watch**:
A Watch is issued when conditions become favorable for severe weather; it does not necessarily mean it is going to happen. Spotter networks are usually activated after a Watch is issued.

Weather **Warning**:
A Warning is issued when severe weather is occurring or is imminent. Analysis of National Weather Service Doppler radar and spotter reports are used to issue a Warning.

How to Receive Weather Information

NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service. When storms are in the forecast, a "Hazardous Weather Outlook" is broadcast from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m., with information about possible severe weather.

Severe weather forecasts and warnings are disseminated to local radio and television stations as well.

The NWS Green Bay web site has many links to forecasts and severe weather watches and warnings:

http://www.weather.gov/grb

Spotter Reporting

Some spotter groups have special reporting procedures. Contact your group leader or county emergency manager.

NWS Green Bay Spotter 24 Hr Hotline:
(unlisted -- restricted to reports only)
1-800-788-6883

Online Reporting:
http://weather.gov/grb/report
http://espotter.weather.gov

How to Report:

- **Who** you are
- **What** you observed
- **Where** the event occurred:
  Exact location and county
- **When** the event occurred
- **Damage** that you witnessed

What to Report:

- Tornadoes
- Funnel clouds
- Rotating wall clouds
- Hail (any size)
- Winds (50 mph or greater)
  Estimated or measured?
- Flooding
- Snowfall (3" or greater)
- Ice accumulation
- Any weather phenomena causing death or serious injury

National Weather Service Green Bay JKL/11-05
www.weather.gov/grb

Information for Severe Weather Spotters

NOAA-National Weather Service
Green Bay, Wisconsin

SKYWARN

For more information contact:

Jeff Last
NOAA/NWS Office
2485 South Point Road
Green Bay, WI 54313
jeff.last@noaa.gov

Spotter Tips

Skywarn spotters provide critical information for all hazards. Spotting for severe storms can be dangerous and requires considerable skill. If you are not comfortable in any weather situation, immediately seek shelter. Remember:

- Our best spotters practice safety first.
- Most tornadoes move from southwest to northeast. They can also move from the northwest to southeast. The best viewing angle is south of the storm.
- Knowing the movement of the storm is important to report, and is critical to your safety.
- Avoid using "marbles" to describe hail size - use coins, or better yet, measure the hail.
- When reporting wind speeds or gusts, indicate whether they are measured or estimated.
- Tornadoes and rainshafts can look alike. Look for rotation and upward motion. Also look for other visual clues, such as the wall cloud and storm rotation.
- Report accurately: a **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air in <u>contact</u> with the ground; a **funnel cloud** is a rotating column of air <u>not reaching</u> the ground. Be observant – sometimes there is no visible connection between the cloud and the ground, even though the tornado is causing debris to be blown about on the ground.
- A **wall cloud** is a lowering of the cloud base below the storm tower, that may or may not rotate.

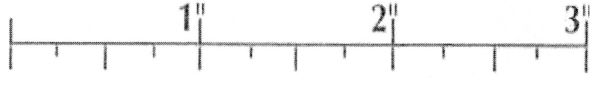
Estimating Wind Speed

Most wind damage from thunderstorms is caused by straight-line winds (also known as "downbursts"). When reporting wind speed, remember to include whether the report was measured or estimated, and describe any damage. If you cannot measure the wind speed, use the table below:

25-30 mph:	Large branches move; whistling heard in wires.
30-40 mph:	Whole trees move.
40-45 mph:	Twigs and small branches break; walking impeded.
45-55 mph:	Larger branches and weak limbs may break; slight structural damage occurs.
55-65 mph:	Moderate structural and tree damage occur.
65 mph + :	Heavy to severe structural and tree damage occur.

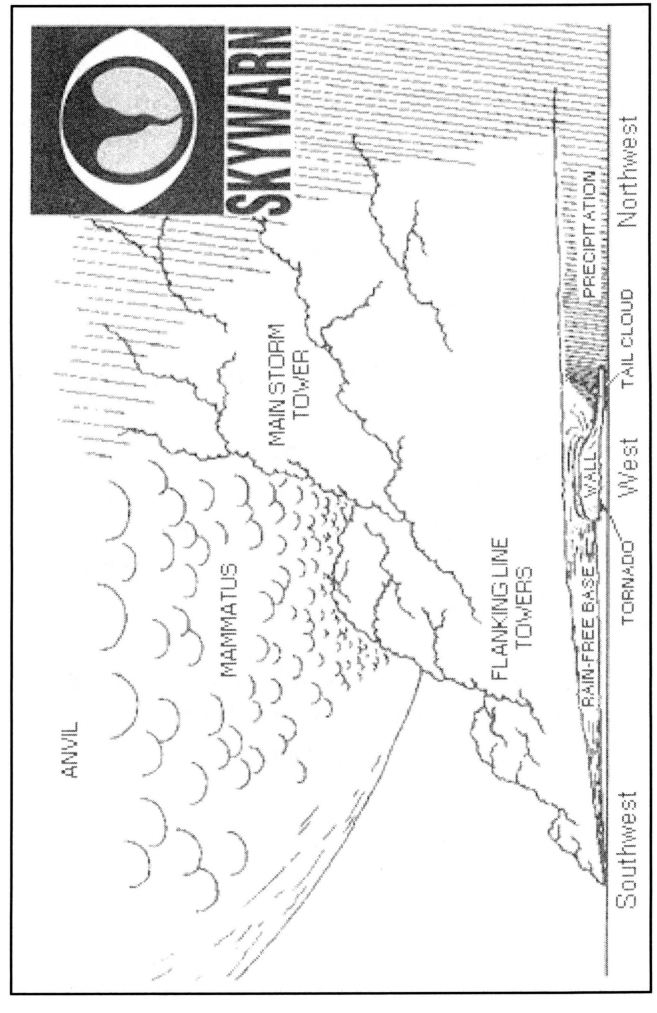
Measuring Hail

Use the ruler below to help you measure hail:



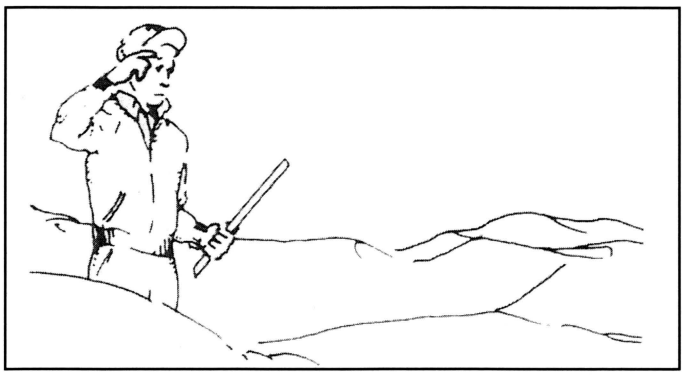
The Supercell Thunderstorm

Supercell thunderstorms are always severe, and can produce tornadoes, large hail, and intense straight-line winds. Knowing the structure of a large thunderstorm will assist you in quickly identifying the active part of the storm.



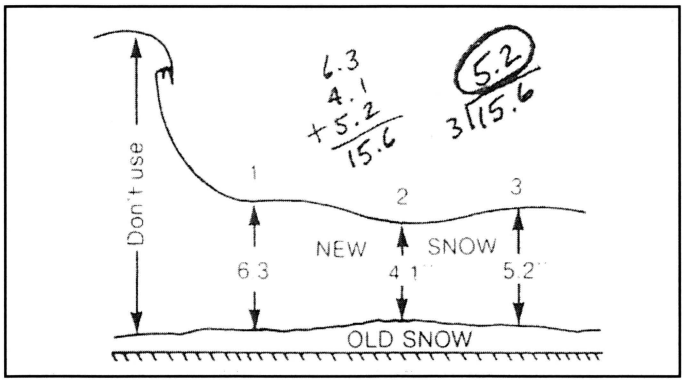
Measuring Snowfall
for the
National Weather Service - Green Bay

Use good judgement in selecting spots where the snow is least affected by drifting.



Take several measurements where the snow is least affected by drifting (don't include deep drifts), then find the average.

Use of a "snow board" can help. Brush off the board after each event.



When you call the NWS in Green Bay, identify yourself as a snow observer, and give your location and county. You can contact us:

- After the first inch of snow falls
- After 2 or 3 inches of snow falls
- After 6 inches of snow falls (and every two hours thereafter if the snow continues)
- If significant freezing drizzle/freezing rain is occurring
- If significant blowing/drifting snow is occurring, reducing visibility to less than ½ mile
- **Storm total** (2" or greater) **-- Important!**

Reports only: (800) 788-6883
General number: (920) 494-2363

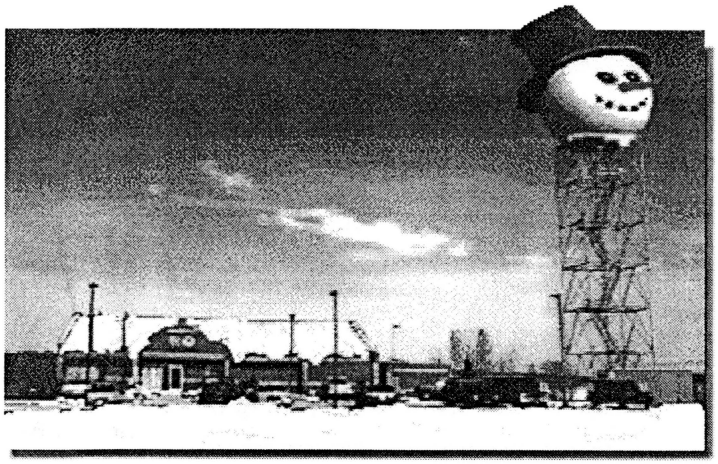
You can also send storm totals (after an event) to the NWS using our Storm Report web page: ***http://weather.gov/grb/report***
-or- eSpotter: ***http://espotter.weather.gov***

NWS Green Bay Home Page:
http://weather.gov/grb

Visit the National Weather Service Green Bay Office Online at: www.crh.noaa.gov/grb

KGRB Online

- What's New
- Office News
- Storm Report
- Comments?



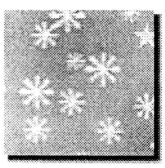
County codes for the new Specific Area Weather Radios -- Click here
If you are a Storm Spotter, or want to be -- Click here

Our NWS Office

Programs, Services and the Staff.

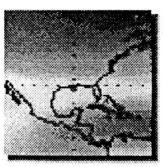
Area Weather

Current Weather, Forecasts and Hydrologic Data



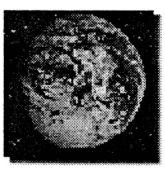
Watches and Warnings

NWS Watches, Warnings and Advisories for the Region



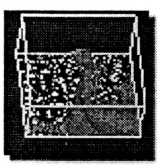
Climate Information

Climate Data for Wisconsin and the Region



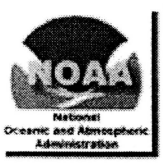
Satellite and Radar

Satellite and Doppler Radar Images



Model Output

NCEP Models, U.W. Model and Upper Air Data



NOAA and the NWS

NOAA, the NWS, and Other Government Weather Sites

Weather Education

Weather Safety Tips, Weather Why's and Owlie Skywarn

Click here for the Disclaimer, Acknowledgments & Commercial Links.

Mention of a particular vendor, site, or product does not constitute an endorsement by the National Weather Service.